AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-7 (Canceled).

8. (Currently Amended) A common rail injector for injecting fuel in a common rail injection system of an internal combustion engine, comprising an injector housing (1), which communicates with a central high-pressure reservoir and in which a nozzle needle is axially displaceable in order to adjust the injection as a function of the pressure in a control chamber, and an annular sealing ring (6), which is disposed in an annular chamber (3) that is provided between a valve element (2) and the injector housing (1), and in addition to the sealing ring (6), a continuous annular support disc (7) is disposed in the annular chamber (3) between the valve element (2) and the injector housing (1), the support disc (7) engaging and supporting the sealing ring and engaging the valve element around its inner circumference.

9. (Previously Presented) The common rail injector of claim 8, wherein the annular support disk (7) comprises a metal material.

10. (Original) The common rail injector of claim 9, wherein the support disk (7) is embodied as slightly conical on its inner circumference.

11. (Original) The common rail injector of claim 10, wherein the slightly conically embodied inner circumference of the support disk (7) narrows toward the sealing element (6) or away from the sealing element (6).

12. (Previously Presented) The common rail injector of claim 8, wherein the support disk (7) is embodied slightly conically on its inner and outer circumference.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) The common rail injector of claim 23, wherein the annular support [[device]] disc is formed of ~~by an annular support device (7), in particular comprising~~ a metal material.

15. (Previously Presented) The common rail injector of claim 23, wherein the support device (7) comprises an annular disc which is slightly conical on its inner circumference, and wherein leakage grooves (8, 9, 10, 11) are embodied in the support disc (7).

16. (Previously Presented) The common rail injector of claim 23, wherein leakage grooves (8, 9, 10, 11) are embodied in the support device (7), and wherein the slightly conically embodied inner circumference of the support disk (7) narrows toward the sealing element (6) or away from the sealing element (6).

17. (Previously Presented) The common rail injector of claim 23, wherein leakage grooves (8, 9, 10, 11) are embodied in the support device (7), and wherein the support disk (7) is embodied slightly conically on its inner and outer circumference.

18. (Previously Presented) The common rail injector of claim 23, wherein the leakage grooves (8, 9, 10, 11) are provided on the side of the support device (7) remote from the sealing element (6).

19. (Original) The common rail injector of claim 14, wherein the leakage grooves (8, 9, 10, 11) are provided on the side of the support device (7) remote from the sealing element (6).

20. (Original) The common rail injector of claim 15, wherein the leakage grooves (8, 9, 10, 11) are provided on the side of the support device (7) remote from the sealing element (6).

21. (Original) The common rail injector of claim 16, wherein the leakage grooves (8, 9, 10, 11) are provided on the side of the support device (7) remote from the sealing element (6).

22. (Original) The common rail injector of claim 17, wherein the leakage grooves (8, 9, 10, 11) are provided on the side of the support device (7) remote from the sealing element (6).

23. (Currently Amended) A common rail injector for injecting fuel in a common rail injection system of an internal combustion engine, comprising an injector housing (1), which communicates with a central high-pressure reservoir and in which a nozzle needle is axially displaceable in order to adjust the injection as a function of the pressure in a control chamber, and a sealing element (6), which is disposed in an annular chamber (3) that is provided between a valve element (2) and the injector housing (1), [[a]] an annular support device (7) disposed in the annular chamber (3) between the valve element (2) and the injector housing (1) and engaging the sealing element, and leakage grooves (8, 9, 10, 11) embodied in the annular support device.